

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO FORCE GOALS FOR US

REFS: A. USNATO 3212, DTG 291615Z MAR 78; B. STATE 49455,
DTG 250127Z FEB 78; C. USNATO 3449, DTG 051130Z APR 78

1. THE US CONTINUES TO BE ENGAGED IN PLANNING ITS OVERALL
DEFENSE POSTURE INCLUDING FUTURE NAVAL FORCE STRUCTURE.
CERTAIN FORCE PROPOSALS (EM03-4, EM08, EM13, AM03-4 AND
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AM-30) DO NOT FALL WITHIN THE PARAMETERS OF CURRENT US
PLANNING AND PRIORITIES. YOU SHOULD REFLECT THIS POINT
IN COMMENTING ON THE IS DRAFT COUNTRY CHAPTER.

2. WITH RESPECT TO QUESTION RAISED PARA 3A OF REF A, WE
CONSIDER QUOTE EXPLORATION WITH THE UK OF MEANS TO PROVIDE
ADEQUATE SHORT AND MEDIUM-RANGE AIR DEFENSE OF AIR ASSETS

IN THE UK. UNQUOTE A USEFUL GOAL.

3. AS TO SUBPARAS 3B AND 3C (REF A), YOU SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS TO REFLECT RECENT USG DECISIONS ON NAVAL PROGRAMS:

A. WE ARE NOW ABLE TO COMMENT DEFINITIVELY IN ALL SACEUR AND SACLANT FORCE PROPOSALS WHICH APPLY TO THE US NAVY.

WE CAN REPORT FULL, PARTIAL OR EXTENDED IMPLEMENTATION ON THE MAJORITY, WITH MOST OF THOSE IN THE PARTIAL CATEGORY BEING MET WITH ONLY MINOR SHORTFALLS. HOWEVER, WE MUST CONTINUE TO REPORT THAT SEVERAL PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED. THESE ARE DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPHS B (SACEUR) AND C (SACLANT) BELOW.

B. SACEUR:

(1) EM03 PART B CALLS FOR ASSIGNMENT OF TWO A-1 SURFACE COMBATANTS AS REPLACEMENT FOR FOUR FAST PATROL BOATS IN THE MED. THIS PROPOSAL WILL NOT BE MET DUE TO LIMITED ASSETS AVAILABLE.

(2) EM04 PROPOSES THAT THE NUMBER OF A-1 MPA BE INCREASED FROM 13 TO 18 AND THAT 9 ADDITIONAL A-3 MPA BE ASSIGNED. COMPETING DEMANDS IN THE ATLANTIC PRECLUDE IMPLEMENTATION.

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CONCERNING THE COROLLARY PROPOSAL TO ENSURE THAT 27 MPA CAN BE OPERATED FROM SIGONELLA, NAVY IS EXAMINING THE FEASIBILITY OF INCREASING CAPACITY TO 18 MPA, WHICH IS THE MAXIMUM NUMBER WE FORESEE BEING COMMITTED TO SACEUR.

(3) EM08 CALLS FOR INCREASING THE SSNS ASSIGNED TO SACEUR TOWARDS THE NUMBER OF SIX. THIS PROPOSAL WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED DUE TO COMPETING DEMANDS IN THE ATLANTIC. WE WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE TWO SSN IN CATEGORY A-1 AND TWO IN A-2, THE LATTER PRIMARILY BEING IN THE MED BUT LISTED AS A-2 TO REFLECT OCCASIONAL DEPLOYMENTS TO ITS WESTERN APPROACHES FOR OPERATIONAL PURPOSES.

(4) EM13 PART B PROPOSES THAT THE US FURNISH TIME ON OCEAN SURVEILLANCE SATELLITE TO PROVIDE TIMELY INTELLIGENCE TO NATO. THIS PART OF EM13 WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED. NO SUCH CAPABILITY CURRENTLY EXISTS WITHIN US NAVY RESOURCES.

C. SACLANT:

(1) AM03 PROPOSES THAT THE US CONSTRUCT FIVE ASW SUPPORT SHIPS (ASWSS) AND ASSIGN THE FIRST TO SACLANT BY END 1984. THE US CURRENTLY HAS NO PLANS TO CONSTRUCT AN ASWSS AND IT WOULD BE MISLEADING TO INCLUDE THIS PROPOSAL EVEN AS A QUOTE REASONABLE CHALLENGE UNQUOTE OR PLANNING GOAL, REGARDLESS OF REVISED 1979-1984 COSTS DEVELOPED BY THE DRC. NAVY HAS INDICATED THAT THE CVV (CONVENTIONALLY POWERED FOLLOW-ON CARRIER OF ABOUT 62,000 TONS) MIGHT BE CAPABLE OF FULFILLING ASWSS MISSIONS IN THE LATE 1980'S BUT APPROVED SHIPBUILDING

PLANS DO NOT PROVIDE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROPOSAL.

(2) AM04 CALLS FOR INCREASING THE NUMBER OF GUIDED
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MISSILE CRUISERS ASSIGNED TO SACLANT. THIS PROPOSAL WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED BECAUSE OF LIMITED ASSETS AVAILABLE AND THE TOTAL NUMBER COMMITTED TO SACLANT WILL REMAIN 13 THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD.

(3) AM30 PROPOSES THAT THE US CONTINUE TEST AND EVALUATION OF THE SURFACE EFFECT SHIP (SES). THIS WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED BECAUSE THE SES PROGRAM WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE FY-1979 BUDGET SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.

D. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PROPOSALS WHICH WE HAVE PLACED IN THE PARTIAL IMPLEMENTATION CATEGORY ARE AM05, AM06, AM07 AND AM16.

(1) AM05 - PROJECTED NUMBERS OF AVAILABLE DESTROYERS/FRIGATES WILL PERMIT COMMITTING ONLY 123 TO SACLANT BY END 1983 (VICE 131 AS PROPOSED).

(2) AM06 - IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT 50 SSN'S WILL BE COMMITTED TO SACLANT BY END 1984 (VICE 52 AS PROPOSED).

(3) AM07 - 179 MPA WILL BE COMMITTED TO SACLANT IN 1979 BUT THIS FIGURE WILL DROP TO 176 IN 1980 AND REMAIN AT THAT LEVEL THEREAFTER (VICE 180 AS PROPOSED).

(4) AM16 - ALTHOUGH THE AEGIS EQUIPPED DDG-47 CLASS WILL BE DELIVERED BEGINNING 1983, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW DDGS WILL NOT APPROACH 40 AS PROPOSED.

4. SUBPARAGRAPH B(2) (ABOVE) RESPONDS TO QUESTION RAISED PARAGRAPH 3 REF A ON MPA AT SIGONELLA. YOU MAY DISCUSS PLANNED US NAVAL SHIPBUILDING PROGRAM ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

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A. THE FIVE-YEAR SHIPBUILDING PLAN PRESENTED TO THE US CONGRESS WITH THE FY-1979 BUDGET NOW CALLS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF 70 ADDITIONAL SHIPS BEYOND THOSE ALREADY AUTHORIZED. THIS PLAN IS SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS FOR ADVANCE PLANNING BUT FUNDS ARE REQUESTED ONLY FOR FY-79 SHIPBUILDING (15 SHIPS, 8 FFG-7 GUIDED MISSILE FRIGATES, 3 T-AGOS SONAR SHIPS AND ONE EACH TRIDENT SSBM, SSN668 ATTACK SUBMARINES, DESTROYER TENDER, AND CABLE SHIP). ALTOGETHER, THE FIVE-YEAR-PLAN WOULD INCREASE THE SIZE OF THE ACTIVE FLEET FROM 454 SHIPS IN 1979 TO ABOUT 516 SHIPS IN 1985. THE PLAN IS HIGHLIGHTED BY CONSTRUCTION OF THE FOLLOWING:

- (1) A CONVENTIONALLY POWERED AIRCRAFT CARRIER (CVV) TO ENTER THE FLEET IN 1987.
- (2) THE FIRST OF A NEW CLASS OF NUCLEAR POWERED CRUISERS TO ENTER THE FLEET IN 1988.
- (3) SEVEN ADDITIONAL DDG-47 CLASS AEGIS-EQUIPPED DESTROYERS. THE FIRST SHIP OF THIS CLASS WAS AUTHORIZED IN THE FY 78 BUDGET AND WILL ENTER THE FLEET IN 1983.
- (4) AN ADDITIONAL 26 FFG-7 CLASS GUIDED MISSILE FRIGATES, WHICH WOULD BRING THE TOTAL FFG-7 INVENTORY TO 52 BY END 1983.
- (5) FIVE ADDITIONAL SSN'S OF THE LOS ANGELES (SSN-688) CLASS.
- (6) SIX ADDITIONAL TRIDENT SSBN'S.
- (7) TWO SHIPS OF THE NEW LSD-41 CLASS.

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- (8) TWELVE OCEAN SURVEILLANCE SHIPS (TAGOS) DESIGNED TO COLLECT, PROCESS AND TRANSMIT ACOUSTIC DATA. THE FIRST OF THESE CIVILIAN MANNED SHIPS WILL BE COMPLETED IN 1981.
- (9) IN ADDITION TO CONSTRUCTION OF OTHER MISCELLANEOUS SHIPS, THIS FIVE YEAR PLAN INCLUDES THE CONVERSION

OF SOME 13 SHIPS, INCLUDING THE SERVICE LIFE
EXTENSION PROGRAM (SLEP) (4 CARRIERS) AND THE
MODERNIZATION OF 10 DDG-2 GUIDED MISSILE DESTROYERS.

5. GENERAL COMMENTS AND BUDGETARY INFORMATION WILL BE
PROVIDED SEPTEL.

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